MARVEL

#1

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RATED T+

INFINITY COUNTDOWN BLACK WIDOW

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INFINITY COUNTDOWN

A SPY, AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.—NATASHA ROMANOFF, A.K.A. BLACK WIDOW, HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF THINGS. MOST RECENTLY, SHE WAS DEAD.

BLACK WIDOW

WHEN A MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE SHOWED UP AT ONE OF NATASHA'S DEAD DROPS, SHE WAS CONCERNED FOR SEVERAL REASONS: FIRST, WOLVERINE (WHO WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD) WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT IT. SECOND, THE PACKAGE CONTAINED AN INFINITY STONE...AND THOSE THINGS ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

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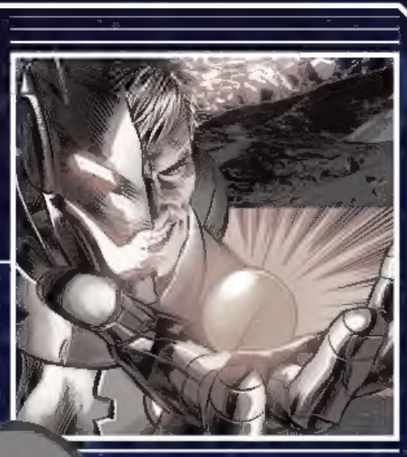
THE INFINITY STONES...

Powered by the user's mastery of **REALITY**. Can preserve the soul to allow for life after death.



ULTRON

SOUL

Powered by the user's mastery of **TIME**. Can allow a person access to the multiverse.

CAPTAIN MARVEL

REALITY

MIND

Powered by the user's mastery of **SOUL**. Can grant telepathy, or intelligence.

TURK BARRETT

Powered by the user's mastery of **MIND**. Can make a person more physically powerful.

DRAX

POWER

TIME

Powered by the user's mastery of **SPACE**. Can allow a person to travel through time.

SUPER-SKRULL

SPACE

Powered by the user's mastery of **POWER**. Can allow teleportation through space.

BLACK WIDOW

On their own, the stones provide great power. But when combined, they form a circuit--a positive feedback loop granting the user **INFINITE** power!

I LOVE BEING DEAD.

NOBODY BOTHERS YOU OR TRIES TO KILL YOU.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, WHEN EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE DEAD, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL MANY PEOPLE.

THAT'S NICE.

WHAKK

OOF!

:SIGH:

WELL. SO MUCH FOR ALL THAT.

I MADE IT FROM MADRIPOOR TO LONDON WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND THEN THINGS STARTED TO GET *WEIRD.*

YAAAAAAAA

THERE'S THE BLACK WIDOW! KILL HER!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

THIS IS ALL LOGAN'S FAULT.

I HOPE HE'S ENJOYING BEING ALIVE AGAIN BECAUSE I'M GOING TO *KILL* HIM.

SPAK SPAK

HE DRAGGED ME INTO--

--WELL, I'M NOT SURE WHAT *EXACTLY* HE'S DRAGGED ME INTO JUST YET, BUT LEAVING AN INFINITY STONE IN MY TOILET WAS QUITE A *RUDE* THING TO DO TO A FRIEND.

BUT I HAVE TO SAY, USING LOGAN'S DUMB SPACE ROCK--

--HAS BEEN QUITE FUN.

POP

POP

EXCUSE ME.

AH!

I MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO TELEPORT IN MY DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT...BUT THAT CAN BE DAMN USEFUL.

YOU MAY WANT TO DUCK.

ZIP

ZAP

SPOP

OH MY GOD!

I'VE FOUGHT A LOT OF UNCONVENTIONAL BATTLES IN MY DAY--BUT NEVER LIKE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST NOW.

IT'S SOME KIND OF PROFOUNDLY BRITISH NONSENSE.

C'MON, LADS!

WHERE'S ME MAGIC ROCK?

SNIFF IT OUT FOR ME-- I AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT.

GRRR.

SNFF

SNFF

SNFF

SNFF

GRRR.

THAT'S CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S BROTHER, JAMIE BRADDOCK. HE'S DABBLING IN THE DARK ARTS AND OBVIOUSLY HASN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO A PROPER COSTUME YET.

I'M TRYING TO AVOID ENGAGING HIM DIRECTLY BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT FOR MY LIFE AGAINST THE CHILDREN HE'S TWISTED UP IN KNOTS.

HE'S GOT THEM WRAPPED AROUND HIS FINGER AND IS USING THEM TO STALK THE INFINITY STONE.

PARDON ME.

MAKE WAY!

TRACKER IN--

--WALLET OUT.

UCCH.

@#$%&# MAGICIANS. OF COURSE THEY CARRY A DICE PURSE.

SHE'S

HERE.

POP

POP

I'M NOT TAKING ON BRADDOCK WHILE THOSE BOYS UNDER HIS SWAY COULD BE CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.

HOW LOGAN ENDED UP WITH A ROCK THAT LETS YOU TELEPORT IS BEYOND ME.

THE DAME LINA CROSS INN

POP

WHY HE DUMPED IT ON ME IS ALSO A MYSTERY.

THE DAME

I SWING BACK TO MY HOTEL TO REARM. I NEED TO GET OUT OF ENGLAND TONIGHT, BUT I NEED TO FIND WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE BEING KEPT BEFORE I SKIP TOWN.

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LEAVE THOSE CHILDREN ON THAT MADMAN'S LEASH.

I ALWAYS MADE FUN OF THE POUCH CROWD, BUT LOOK AT ME NOW. IN NEED OF A POUCH.

THE TRACKER'S IN PLACE...

...TIME TO SEE WHERE IT LEADS ME.

TRACKER'S BEEN STATIONARY FOR A FEW MINUTES.

TIME TO STRIKE.

LOOKS LIKE I FOUND THE DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB.

THE PRAECANT CLUB

KOK KOK

HMM.

DID ONE OF YOU ORDER FOOD?

POP

WHAK-K

HURKKCCKGLE!

POP

POP

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

AND DON'T LIE.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING.

WRONG ANSWER.

SHHK

I USE THE STONE'S POWER TO QUIETLY SEARCH THE CLUB...

...UNTIL I FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTION.

POP

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

YOU!

WHAKK

UGNN!

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AAAGH!

BURNS, DON'T IT?

WHAT. DID HE DO TO ME?

POP

GIVE ME MY ROCK, AND PERHAPS I'LL LET YOU JOIN THE LADS IN THE KENNEL.

POP

"WHERE'S ALL THAT POPPING COMING FROM?"

SLOW TIME DOWN A THOUSAND PERCENT, MATE.

NOW WHERE'S THAT SOUND COMING FROM?

UNKNOWN QUERY. NO AUDITORY DISTURBANCE DETECTED.

POP

AHA!

LOOKS LIKE A BIRD'S FLOWN IN OUR WINDOW.

THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL.

I THINK SHE'S BEEN POPPING THROUGH OUR DIMENSION AS A MEANS OF TAKING A SHORTER PATH IN HERS.

HOW DID SHE MANAGE THIS TRESPASS, I WONDER--

AH!

HA. SHE CARRIES A MAGIC ROCK!

HOW QUAINT.

AND SHE'S BEEN POISONED BY A PSIONICIST.

POP

OKAY, CONTINUE THE SIMULATION.

RESUME SIMULATION.

LOOKS LIKE MY QUIET NIGHT IN IS BECOMING A NIGHT OUT.

I'LL SORT THIS MAGIC ROCK BUSINESS AND HOPEFULLY GRAB A PINT. BACK IN A BIT.

HAVE A NICE EVENING, MERLIN.

JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A QUICK PINT BEFORE THE DONNYBROOK.

PROTECT LORD BRADDOCK!

POP

YOU'VE GOT MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS--

POP

--LIKE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO--

--SURVIVE ME!

POP

POP

GAH!

GIVE ME THOSE KIDS AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

PROBABLY.

I THINK I'D RATHER JUST WAIT UNTIL THAT SNAKE VENOM DROPS YOU DEAD, AND THEN I'D HAVE ME HOUNDS, YOUR ROCK *AND* YOUR CORPSE FOR MY GARDEN.

FOR THE RECORD, I TRIED TO PLAY NICE.

UGHN!

THWACK

IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.

POP

VERY WELL.

BUCKLE UP.

AAAAAARGH!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE A PERMANENT FIXTURE AROUND HERE, BRADDOCK.

NOW YE'VE GONE AND DONE IT.

THE CHILDREN ARE NOT YOURS...

I WAS HOLDIN' THE VIPERS IN--NOW NUTHIN'S HOLDING THEM BACK.

I DREAMT THAT MY SIS KILLED ME...MAYBE SHE DID. I THINK MAYBE ME WHOLE LIFE'S BEEN A DREAM.

WHY'D YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT THOSE KIDS, ANYWAY?

"...AND I DON'T OWE YOU AN ANSWER."

HA-HA-HA!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

I HAVEN'T HAD A GUINNESS IN YEARS. I HAVE TO GET OUT MORE.

WUDD

HN

PO

OP YEA SLASH P RGH!

UTH

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE SPOT.

PERFECT TIMING!

UTH

POP

ZIP UP AND RETURN TO YOUR BAR-STOOL, WINO.

ANYONE IN THIS ALLEY IS PROBABLY ABOUT TO DIE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU COULD USE A FRIEND, THEN.

IS THIS THE KENNEL BRADDOCK WAS TALKING ABOUT?

ON YOUR FEET, KIDS.

HSSSSS!

LET'S GET THESE COLLARS OFF.

SKRACK

W-WHERE AM I?

HSSSSS!

SHUSH NOW.

I'LL TAKE THIS.

TH-THANK YOU.

RUN ALONG HOME NOW, LADS.

THE ADULTS WILL HANDLE THESE KNAVES.

TH-THANK YOU, SIR!

DON'T DAWDLE, NOW.

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME QUITE UNPLEASANT.

WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR DATE FOR THE EVENING, NATASHA.

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THE PORTAL'S OPEN.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES. GO BACK HOME.

OR BE DESTROYED RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

WELL, I'M OBVIOUSLY TRIPPING MY @#$% OFF. GOTTA RUN. THANKS FOR THE--WHATEVER.

WHAT? YOU'VE NEVER MET A MAN WHO CAN CHARM SNAKES?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF SERPENTS TO LAST ME A LIFETIME. BYE.

NOW WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

POP

NICE WORK WITH JAMIE BRADDOCK. MY FRIEND BRIAN WILL BE GRATEFUL YOU INTERVENED ON HIS BEHALF.

POP

POP

HOW THE DEVIL?!

YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT THAT LITTLE BLUE BAUBLE, AIN'T YA?

POP

MARYLEBONE

DON'T WORRY-- I'M NOT AFTER IT.

OKAY, I'LL BITE... WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?

I'M KIND OF LIKE THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH 'ROUND THESE PARTS.

WHO WERE THOSE GUYS IN THE BATHROBES? I THOUGHT I WAS UP AGAINST THE *HELLFIRE CLUB.*

NAH, THEY'RE TOO BUSY SITTIN' 'ROUND DRINKING WINE AND GRUMBLING ABOUT THE X-MEN.

JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE INTERNET...

...I THINK... I NEED A DOCTOR.

I'LL SAY. YOU'VE GOT THE VENOM OF A SIXTH-DIMENSIONAL ASP FLOWING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

IF YOU TRY TO SUCK THE POISON OUT, LONDON IS GOING TO BE SHORT ONE HIPPIE.

NAH, BUT YOU'VE NOT GOT MUCH TIME.

I'M GRATEFUL YOU STEPPED UP TO *HELP* THE LADS THAT HAD BEEN TURNED INTO BRADDOCK'S HOUNDS.

I'D LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

I'M...OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS...

MARYLEBONE

CAPTAIN BRITAIN

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU CAN TELEPORT ME TO A MANSION IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK, CAN YOU?

HUHN. NOT LIKELY. MY POWER IS STRONGEST HERE.

BUT YOU CAN *BORROW* SOME OF MINE, IF YOU LIKE.

TO GET YOU ON YOUR WAY.

ALL YE'D HAVE TO DO IS TAKE MY HAND.

WE GETTING ON BOARD?

NO. AND DON'T PANIC NOW. THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANOTHER FUSS--

--THIS IS JUST THE ANTIDOTE.

SSSSS.

I HATE MAGIC.

HUMANS OFTEN HATE WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND...

...BUT YOU SHOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND BECAUSE TONIGHT MAGIC IS WHAT'S ALLOWING YE TO KEEP ADDIN' TO YER STORY.

NOW THINK OF HOME AND USE THAT STONE OF YOURS.

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

POP

23RD STREET

H-HOW DID WE DO THAT? HOW ARE WE BACK IN *NEW YORK?* I WAS ONLY ABLE TO USE THE TELEPORT BY LINE OF SIGHT BEFORE.

THE MORE POWER YE HAVE, THE MORE MILEAGE YOU CAN GET OUT OF THE *SPACE* ROCK-- AND I MIGHT BE OLD, BUT I STILL GOT IT WHERE IT COUNTS IN THE *POWER* DEPARTMENT.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE THE REALM UNDEFENDED.

TELL THE GOOD DOCTOR I SAID HELLO, AND YOU'D BEST RALLY TRUSTED FIGHTERS TO YOUR SIDE.

YOU KNOW STEPHEN?

I DO. CAREFUL WITH THAT ROCK, NOW. ONCE I LEAVE, I WON'T BE LOOKING AFTER YOU.

I DON'T NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER ME.

WOULD YOU LIKE THE ASP VENOM BACK?

TOUCHE.

IF I WERE TO ASK YOU TO SAFEGUARD THE ROCK--

SORRY, DEAR.

THIS IS NOT MY STORY.

I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.

HEH.

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHO I AM...

23rd Street Station

YOU

DON'T

@#$%

WITH THE

MAGIC-
MAKERS.

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

INFINITY COUNTDOWN & INFINITY WARS!

INFINITY COUNTDOWN #5

NEXT IN INFINITY COUNTDOWN...

INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DARKHAWK #3

INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS #1

FEBRUARY

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: ADAM WARLOCK
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN PRIME

MARCH

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN #1

APRIL

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN #2

MAY

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN #3
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DAREDEVIL #1
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DARKHAWK #1
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CAPTAIN MARVEL #1

JUNE

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN #4
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: BLACK WIDOW #1
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS #1
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DARKHAWK #2
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DARKHAWK #3

JULY

- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN #5
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS #2
- [ ] INFINITY COUNTDOWN: DARKHAWK #4

ZONE